

Summary

The invention concerns a method for the detection of bacteria of the genus *Legionella* using a sandwich hybridization procedure at temperatures between 50 and 55°C.

According to the invention new oligonucleotide probes are utilized as capture and detection probes enabling a genus or species specific detection of different *Legionella* bacteria.

Advantageous is the exchangeability of capture and detection probes against each other for genus or species specific detections of *Legionella* bacteria. Furthermore the detection procedure can be performed with combinations of oligonucleotide probes for a genus and species specific detection.